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of describing an occasional condition as a typical one has been reduced to a minimum.

It is due to Miss FERGUSON to announce that the manuscript left her hands Dec. 29, 1902, after which only a few minor corrections in the latter part of the work were possible.—C. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

MINOR NOTICES.

THE FIRST PART of the second supplement (1896–1900) of the Kew Index, containing the letters A–L, is ready for distribution. It is printed uniformly in all respects with the *Index Kewensis* itself. The advantage of having such a record of the years 1896–1900 cannot be overstated, and the tremendous amount of labor it involves on the part of Sir W. T. THISELTON-DYER and his colleagues deserves recognition from botanists. The American Branch of the Clarendon Press is at 91–93 Fifth Avenue, New York City; and the price of the part is 13s.—J. M. C.

KOORDERS and VALETON[2] have published another fascicle of additions to the known arboreal flora of Java. The five families included are Fagaceae (Castanea 3 spp., Quercus 25 spp.), Lauraceae (71 spp., 10 of which are new), Monimiaceae (4 spp.), Coniferales (Podocarpus 5 spp., one new), and Casuarinaceae (2 spp.).—J. M. C.

NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

INSECTS AND FLOWER COLORS.—Before considering some very recent papers on this subject, brief reference may be made to the work of PLATEAU, who more than any other investigator, has raised objections to the familiar "flag" or "signal" theory, as held by SPRENGEL, MUELLER, and DARWIN. Among the more striking of PLATEAU'S observations,[3] we may note that he observed insect visits in normal number to heads of Dahlia, which were variously hidden from vision by means of leaves and papers; that the removal of the corolla from Lobelia flowers did not affect the insect visits, as claimed by DARWIN; that insects visit indifferently flowers of Salvia and Zinnia, similar in species but differing in color; that Pelargonium, however showy the flowers, is but little visited by insects normally, but that visits are readily induced in great numbers, if honey is placed on the flowers; that visits to Dahlia flowers cease if the nectar glands are removed, but begin again if honey is added; that the removal of the outer radiant flowers of Hydrangea has no effect on insect visits; that even such intelligent insects as bees commit many errors, visiting buds, wilted flowers, fruits, etc. In general

[2] KOORDERS, S. H., and VALETON, TH., Boomsoorten op Java. Bijdrage no. 10. Mededeel. 'sLands Plant. no. 68. pp. vi+287. Batavia. 1904.

[3] See Bull. Roy. Acad. Belg., 1895, 1896, 1897; Mém. Soc. Zool. France, 1898, 1899, 1900; Ann. Soc. Entomol. Belg. 1901, 1902; Bull. Roy. Acad. Belg. 1902. Reviews of these articles in Biol. Cent. **16**:417; **17**:599; **18**:469; **19**:349; **20**:490; **21**:650; **23**:224; **23**:311.